NUMB. CV.

The SPECTATOR.

——Id arbitror
Adprime in vita eſſe utile, ne quid nimis. Ter. Andr.

Saturday, June 30. 1711.

MY Friend, WILL. HONYCOMB, values himſelf very much upon what he calls the Knowledge of Mankind, which has coſt him many Diſaſters in his Youth; for he reckons every Misfortune that he has met among the Women, and every Rencounter among the Men, as Parts of his Education, and fancies he ſhould never have been the Man he is, if he had not broke Windows, knocked down Conſtables, diſturbed honeſt People with his Midnight Revels, and beat up a Lewd Woman's Quarters, before he was a young Fellow. The engaging in Adventures of this nature WILL. calls the ſtudying of Mankind, and terms this Knowledge of the Town the Knowledge of the World. WILL. ingenuouſly confeſſes that for half his Life his Head ached every Morning with reading of Men over-night, and that his preſent Comforts himſelf under certain Pains which he endures from time to time, proceed from without them he could not have been acquainted with the Gallantries of the Age. This WILL. looks upon as the Learning of a Gentleman, and regards all other kinds of Science and Accompliſhments of one whom he calls a Scholar, a Bookiſh Man, or a Philoſopher.

For theſe Reaſons WILL. ſhines in mixt Company, where he has the Diſcretion not to go out of his Depth, and has often a certain way of making his Ignorance appear a ſeeming one. Our Club however has frequently caught him tripping, at which times they never ſpare him. For as WILL. often entertains us with the Knowledge of the Town, we ſometimes take our Revenge upon him by our Knowledge in Books.

He was laſt Night producing two or three Letters which he writ in his Youth to a Coquet Lady. The Raillery of them was natural, and well enough for a meer Man of the Town; but, very unluckily, ſeveral of the Words were wrong ſpelt. WILL. laughed this off at firſt as well as he could, but finding himſelf puſhed on all ſides, and eſpecially by the Templer, he told us, with a little Paſſion, that he never liked Pedantry in Spelling, and that he ſpelt like a Gentleman, and not like a Scholar: Upon this WILL. had Recourſe to his old Topick of ſhowing the narrow Spiritedneſs, the Pride and Ignorance of Pedants; which he carried ſo far, that upon my retiring to my Lodgings, I could not forbear throwing together ſuch Reflections as occurred to me upon that Subject.

A Man that has been brought up among Books, and is able to talk of nothing elſe, is a very indifferent Companion, and what we call a Pedant. But, methinks, we ſhould enlarge the Title, and give it every one that does not know how to think out of his Profeſſion, and particular way of Life.

What is a greater Pedant than a meer Man of the Town? Barr him the Play-houſes, a Catalogue of the reigning Beauties, and an Account of a few faſhionable Diſtempers that have befallen him, and you ſtrike him Dumb. How many a pretty Gentleman's Knowledge lies all within the Verge of the Court? He will tell you the Names of the Principal Favourites, repeat the ſhrewd Sayings of a Man of Quality, whiſper an Intriegue that is not yet blown upon by common Fame; or, if the Sphere of his Obſervations is a little larger than ordinary, will perhaps enter into all the Incidents, Turns and Revolutions in a Game of Ombre. When he has gone thus far he has ſhown you the whole Circle of his Accompliſhments, his Parts are drained, and he is diſabled from any further Converſation. What are theſe but rank Pedants? and yet theſe are the Men that value themſelves moſt on their Exemption from the Pedantry of Colleges.

I might here mention the Military Pedant, who always talks in a Camp, and is ſtorming Towns, making Lodgments, and fighting Battels from one end of the Year to the other. Every thing he ſpeaks ſmells of Gunpowder; if you take away his Artillery from him, he has not a Word to ſay for himſelf. I might likewiſe mention the Law Pedant, that is perpetually putting Caſes, repeating the Tranſactions

of

of *Westminster-Hall*, wrangling with you upon the most indifferent Circumstances of Life, and not to be convinced of the Distance of a Place, or of the most trivial Point in Conversation, but by dint of Argument. The State-Pedant is wrapt up in News, and lost in Politicks. If you mention either of the Kings of *Spain* or *Poland*, he talks very notably, but if you go out of the *Gazette* you drop him. In short, a meer Courtier, a meer Soldier, a meer Scholar, a meer any thing, is an insipid Pedantick Character, and equally ridiculous.

Of all the Species of Pedants, which I have above mentioned, the Book-Pedant is much the most supportable; he has at least an exercised Understanding, and a Head which is full though confused, so that a Man who converses with him may often receive from him hints of things that are worth knowing, and what he may possibly turn to his own Advantage, tho' they are of little use to the Owner. The worst kind of Pedants among Learned Men are such as are naturally endued with a very small Share of common Sense, and have read a great number of Books without Taste or Distinction.

The Truth of it is, Learning, like Travelling, and all other Methods of Improvement, as it finishes good Sense, so it makes a silly Man ten thousand times more insufferable, by supplying variety of Matter to his Impertinence, and giving him an Opportunity of abounding in Absurdities.

Shallow Pedants cry up one another much more than Men of solid and useful Learning. To read the Titles they give an Editor, or Collator of a Manuscript, you would take him for the Glory of the Common Wealth of Letters, and the Wonder of his Age; when perhaps upon Examination you find that he has only Rectify'd a *Greek* Particle, or laid out a whole Sentence in proper Comma's.

They are obliged indeed to be thus lavish of their Praises, that they may keep one another in Countenance; and it is no wonder if a great deal of Knowledge, which is not capable of making a Man Wise, has a natural Tendency to make him Vain and Arrogant.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of May, are to be sold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-House, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, the Corner of Beauford-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane, where also may be had those for the Months of March and April.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

This Day is Publish'd, and Printed very Correctly with a neat Elzever Letter for the Pocket; Poems on several Occasions, written by Mr. Prior. Printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over-against Catharine-street in the Strand.

At the Desire of several Persons of Qua

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedia

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, on Tue next, being the 3d day of July, will be Revi'd (not acted these four Years) Call'd The Souldiers Fortune, the late Ingenious Mr Otway. The part of Sir David Dunce Johnson, Sir Jolly Jumble Mr. Bullock, Beaugard Mr. Powel tine Mr. Mills, Fourbin Mr. Norris, Bloody-Bones Mr. Cro min Mr. Bullock Jun. Lady Dunce Mrs. Knight, Silvia Mr gers.

The Undertakers of the Fatherly Society, at Office in Knowles Court Little-Carter-lane, give notice to all Members of the said Society, That upon Saturday the Seven of July next, they will give such Reasonable and Good Security for faithful Execution of the Trusts of the said Office as to the Trust seem fit to require, and that all Persons Members of the said who shall not before that Time have paid all their Contributio to the said Society, will then peremtorily be Excluded all Benef Advantage which would otherwise accrue by Virtue of any or Claim by them made in the said Office; at which Time Claims made upon the said Society will be then Adjusted, and ment of them directed in due Course, as they have been or be made upon the said Society.

All Gentlemen and others, that are Lovers of Prints, may have the true Originals, after the greatest M as Raphael, Michael Angelo, Reuben, Le Brun, Julii Romano ny sorts, as large Scripture Stories out of the Old and New T ment; all sorts of Altar-Pieces. Fram'd and Unfram'd; tha and small Battels of Alexander: With many more too long t certed, proper for Furnishing Rooms, Stair-Cases, and Clos at reasonable Rates, by J. Smith at the Picture Shop in Exeter C in the Strand, at the West-end within. With Allowance to Sell again.

Choice good New White and Red Wines, Hands of the Merchant. To be Sold by the Butt, Hogshead lon, but no less quantity than a Gallon, never in the Hands but the Importers. Being the neat pure Juice of the Grape, viz Barcelona Red Wine Imported since Christmas last, at 5 s. per and at 4 s. 6d. by the Butt or Hogs-head (in other Hands w worth 10 s. per Gallon) likewise new white Mountain Wi Choice good White Madera Wine at 6 s. per Gallon. To Drawn out of the Butt as shall be Chose by the Buyer, i Cellar in Cannon-street, at the Black Lion opposite to Lond Coffee-House. Any Gentleman that pleases may come and Wines will be welcom, whether he buys or not. The Wine several Years in Casks or Bottels. Note, there are Bottels of all sorts fit for filling. Attendance is given from 8 till from 2 till 7.

Loss of Memory or Forgetfulness, certainly C By a grateful Electuary peculiarly adapted for that end; it the Prime Cause (which few apprehend) of Forgetfulness, Head clear and easie, the Spirits free, active and undisturb'd; borates and revives all the noble Faculties of the Soul, such as Judgment, Apprehension, Reason and Memory; which last particular it so strengthens, as to render that Fabulty exceeding good beyond imagination; thereby enabling those whose Memo before almost totally lost, to remember the Minutest Circumst their Affairs, &c. to a wonder. Price 2 s. 6d. a Pot. Sold Mr. Pynt's at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-Yard Cheapside with Directions.

A very Neat and Correct Edition of the Wor Mr. Francis Beaumont and Mr. John Fletcher. In Seven Vols. Adorn'd with Cuts. With some Account of the Life and W of the Authors. Printed for J. Tonson, at Shakespear's Head against Catherine-street in the Strand.

The Retir'd Gardner, or, Dialogues betw a Gentleman and a Gard'ner: Containing the Methods of Ordering and Impraving a Fruit and Kitchin-Garden, together the Manner of planting and Cultivating Flowers, Plants, and Under-Shrubs, necessary for the Adorning of Gardens, which is Explain'd, the Art of Making and Disposing terres, Arbours of Greens, Wood-Works, Arches, Colum other Pieces and Compartments usually found in the most tiful Gardens of Country-Seats. The whole enrich'd with of Figures, being a Translation from the Sieur Louis Liger, which is added, a Discription and Plan of Count Tallard's G at Nottingham. The whole Revis'd, with several Alterations Additions, which render it proper for our English Climate George London, and Henry Wise. Printed for Jacob To at Shakespear's Head over-against Catherine-Street in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* the *Strand*.